Appendix: NRCS AWDB Web Service Datastore

2016-03-15

# Overview

The NRCS AWDB datastore corresponds to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Air and Water Database (AWDB) web service, as described on the following page:

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/web\_service/AWDB\_Web\_Service\_Reference.htm

Although the NRCS AWDB web services are largely compatible with TSTool conventions, there are a number of limitations, which are discussed below. The web services are implemented using the SOAP protocol and the following test tool is available:

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/awdbWebService

# NRCS AWDB and Standard Time Series Properties

The standard time series identifier for NRCS AWDB time series in TSTool is of the form:

Location.DataSource.DataType.Interval~DataStoreName

More specifically, the identifier adheres to the following convention:

State-StationID.NetworkCode.ElementCode.Hour~DataStoreName

State-StationID.NetworkCode.ElementCode.Day~DataStoreName

State-StationID.NetworkCode.ElementCode.Month~DataStoreName

State-StationID.NetworkCode.ElementCode.Year~DataStoreName

State-StationID.NetworkCode.ElementCode.Irregular~DataStoreName

NRCS water supply forecasts are available as values for a forecast period (e.g., APR-SEP) and consequently are returned as a table and not a time series.

Identifier parts and other time series properties are described as follows, using terms described in the NRCS AWDB web service documentation):

* The NRCS AWDB uses a “station triplet” to uniquely identify stations, using the convention StationID:State:NetworkCode (e.g., 471:ID:SNTL). This information is mapped to TSTool conventions as follows:
  + The state abbreviation forms the first part of the TSID location.
  + The StationID forms the second part of the TSID location, separated from the state with a dash (e.g., CO-668).
  + The NetworkCode corresponds to the TSID data source.
* ElementCode is assigned from the StationElement.elementCd value returned by the getStationElements web service method.
* The interval is assigned from the StationElement.duration value returned by the getStationElements web service method, as follows:
  + For hour interval data, the getHourlyData() web service method is called:
    - TSID interval is set to Hour
  + For irregular interval data, the getInstantaneousData() web service method is called:
    - Duration.INSTANTANEOUS translates to TSID Irregular
    - The getInstantaneousData() method is slated to be phased out so hourly data should be used instead.
  + For day, month, and year interval data, the getData() web service method is called:
    - Duration.DAILY translates to TSID Day
    - Duration.MONTHLY translates to TSID Month
    - Duration.SEMIMONTHLY is not supported (could treat as irregular)
    - Duration.ANNUAL translates to TSID Year
    - Duration.SEASONAL is not supported (could treat as irregular)
* DataStoreName is the user-defined data store name from the configuration information.
* Data units are assigned from the StationElement.storedUnitsCd value returned by the getStationElements web service method.
* Missing numerical values are internally represented as NaN and are assigned to any date/times in the period that do not have values.
* Data value flags, if encountered, are retained in the time series.
* Time series properties are extracted from the StationMetaData and StationElement (and ReservoirMetadata if a reservoir) objects and are saved as time series properties. For example, the station longitude and latitude are assigned from station metadata.
* The time zone for the data is specified in StationDataTimeZone and the station in StationTimeZone (web service documentation says it is set to same value as station data time zone). TSTool does not set the time zone on the time series. This is being evaluated pending information being provided by the NRCS.

# Limitations

NRCS AWDB data store limitations relative to TSTool standard features are as follows:

* Although the getStations web service request allows element codes to be specified for the query, the returned list provides only the station triplet, but not the accompanying element. Consequently, it is not possible to cross-reference the original request with the returned information. Instead, an additional getStationElements request must occur using the triplet in order to find matching elements, which adds to the query time. The requested interval also is checked against the available durations.
* Instantaneous data are handled using the Irregular interval because it is not possible to determine from the web service whether returned values are spaced regularly (e.g., 15Min).
* All values are returned for instantaneous data, even though the web service allows first of day or midnight values to be requested.
* The getStationElements method does not appear to return combinations that include duration=INSTANTANEOUS, hourly data are not supported, and sometimes null is returned for the duration. The work-around that has been implemented detects daily duration data and assumes that instantaneous and hourly data are also available in that case. This may lead to warnings when instantaneous data are actually not available.

# Datastore Configuration File

A datastore is configured by enabling NRCS AWDB datastores in the main TSTool.cfg configuration file, and creating a datastore configuration file for each datastore. Configurations are processed at software startup. An example of the TSTool configuration file is shown below. Multiple data stores can be defined using the [DataStore:DataStoreName] syntax. For example, this can be used to access different versions of the web services.

|  |
| --- |
| # Configuration file for TSTool  [TSTool]  NrcsAwdbEnabled = true  # Startup datastores (note that datastore name in config file takes precedence)  [DataStore:NrcsAwdb]  ConfigFile = "NrcsAwdb.cfg" |

TSTool Configuration File with NRCS AWDB Datastore Properties

Properties for each datastore are specified in an accompanying data store configuration file (see below), which in the following example is located in the same folder as the TSTool configuration file and configures a data store named “NrcsAwdb”.

|  |
| --- |
| # Configuration information for NRCS AWDB web service data store.  # Properties are:  #  # Type - must be NrcsAwdbDataStore  # Name - datastore identifier used in applications  # Description - datastore description for reports and user interfaces (short phrase)  # ServiceRootURI - web service root URI, including the server name path to WSDL  # ServiceAPIDocumentationURI - documentation for web service  # ServiceOnlineURI - on-line test tool  Type = "NrcsAwdbDataStore"  Name = "NrcsAwdb"  Description = "NRCS AWDB Web Service"  ServiceRootURI = "http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/awdbWebService/services?WSDL"  ServiceAPIDocumentationURI = "http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/web\_service/AWDB\_Web\_Service\_Reference.htm"  ServiceOnlineURI = <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/awdbWebService>  # Timeout in seconds for web service connections and receipt of read data.  # The default is no timeout, which may lead to TSTool hanging.  ConnectTimeout = 900  ReadTimeout = 900 |

NRCS AWDB Datastore Configuration File

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